


COSTA RICA & PANAMA - COSTA RICA EXPERIENCE



TRIP CODE
CRTSCREP
DEPARTURE
Daily departures
DURATION
12 Days
LOCATIONS
Costa Rica


INTRODUCTION

Costa Rica is perhaps the most diverse travel destination in all of Central America. For many, it is a peaceful oasis with many hot sandy beaches to relax and dig your toes into. For others it is the perfect place to do all kinds of activities such as snorkelling, surfing prime waves, cruising through mysterious cloud forests or hiking over active volcanoes - the possibilities are unlimited. Costa Rica is also famous for its overwhelming natural beauty and variety of different animals, which are relatively easy to spot.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival transfer in San Jose

On arrival, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer you to your hotel. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it. Should you not be able to locate them, please refer to the front of your itinerary for emergency contact details of our representative office.



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DAY 1: San Jose

San Jose, the capital and largest city of Costa Rica, sits in the Central Valley region overlooked by volcanoes to the north and the Talamanca Mountains to the south. It is the cultural capital of Costa Rica, offering many museums including the Pre-Columbian Gold Museum that displays hundreds of gold artefacts. In the historic neighbourhoods of San Jose, Spanish colonial mansions have been converted into galleries, boutique hotels and restaurants.



DAY 2: San Jose Tortuguero Arrival

Tortuguero National Park, located in the northeast part of Costa Rica’s Atlantic coast, is one of Costa Rica's best known parks, and not without a reason. Besides being the most important nesting site for the green turtle (July to October), in the entire western half of the Caribbean, it also serves as a refuge for other turtles, such as leatherbacks, and hawksbills. One of the country's most popular eco tourism destinations, the canals, rivers, beaches, and lakes of Tortuguero National Park



DAY 2: Tortuguero

Tortuguero is perhaps the most famous beach on the Caribbean side of Costa Rica. For wildlife lovers Tortuguero National Park is a must, not only for the nesting turtles but for the intense biodiversity which includes 60 species of frogs, 30 species of freshwater fish, 3 monkey species, over 400 species of birds, caimans and crocodiles as well as the threatened West Indian manatee. Six of the world’s eight species of marine turtles nest in Costa Rica and Tortuguero is the most important Caribbean breeding site of the green turtle. The turtles come ashore to nest and lay their eggs between July and October.



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DAY 3: Tortuguero Exploration

Before breakfast, morning boat tour in Tortuguero canals. This tour is a nice introduction to the National Park's rich rainforest and wildlife. Early morning hours are a great opportunity to witness the awakening in the forest. Coffee is readily available before departing on the tour. Return for a complete breakfast at the lodge. Explore the Mawamba Park. This guided visit includes the butterfly farm, the frog farm and garden, the iguana farm, the biodigestor combined with a nice walk in the lodge's private trails. Lunch is included at the pool restaurant. In the afternoon, enjoy another canal tour, visiting a different area than the one visited in the morning boat tour. Free time before dinner is served. Note: The order of the activities may change according to weather conditions. Optional night tour (not included in the package) from July to September to observe the turtle nesting. There is also an optional night walk available on a private trail.



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DAY 4: Tortuguero to Arenal

After breakfast, shared boat transfer back to the pier, where the trip will continue by bus to your next destination. Lunch is included in Rio Danta Restaurant, meet our driver to transfer to Arenal. The most characteristic feature of this national park is the impressive and majestic Arenal Volcano, an almost perfect active cone 1,633 meters high, whose regular eruptions offer one of the most extraordinary and awe inspiring natural sights in Costa Rica. The four most important types of vegetation in the park are the perennial wet and very wet forests that cover about 47% of the area. There's also cloud forest and riverine woodlands, where several endemic species can be found, like the brunelia costaricensis and the epiphytic pineapple.



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DAY 5: Arenal Hike

Breakfast at the Hotel. Hiking Day Tour. Before the active period of 1968, a lavish canopy of vegetation covered the Arenal Volcano. People that climbed Arenal's summit related that inside the crater there were big trees and at night, they slept in places where there was some heat due to small steam outlets. Right now the green area is located at the east side of the mountain, and other little green parts can be seen on the north and the south of the volcano. Enjoy the most extraordinary view of the Arenal Volcano on a gentle hike along the base of this marvellous volcano. The hike begins on one the trails close to the volcano, the trail taking us through the forest of a private forest and the area destroyed in 1968 now in the process of regeneration. We will be on this trail for about 2 ½ hours.



DAY 6: Arenal - Monteverde

Breakfast at the Hotel. Private transfer to Monteverde. Monteverde is a small town in Puntarenas, Costa Rica. Located in the Cordillera de Tilarán, roughly a four hour drive from the Central Valley of Costa Rica, Monteverde is considered a major ecotourism destination in Costa Rica. The area is perhaps best known for the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve and numerous other reserves, which draw considerable numbers of tourists and naturalists interested in mountain and tropical biodiversity.



DAY 6: Monteverde

Monteverde is a Quaker settlement in the mountainous northwest of Costa Rica. Nearby, the stunningly beautiful Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve houses 2.5% of the world's biodiversity and is home to thousands of species of plants and animals including jaguars and ocelots as well as over 400 species of birds, including the colourful resplendent quetzal. There are many trails that lead through the ferns and orchids and hanging bridges that allow you to experience the forest canopy.



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DAY 7: Monteverde

Breakfast at the Hotel. Day to visit the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve. The Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve will astound visitors with its beauty, bounty and great amount biodiversity. Wind-sculpted elfin woodlands give way to rainforests where tall trees – festooned with orchids, bromeliads, ferns, vines and mosses – rise high into the sky.



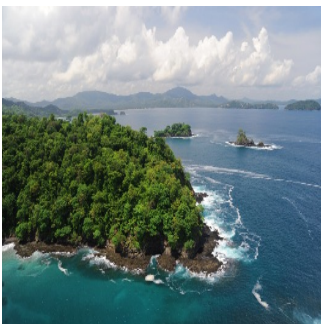
DAY 8: Monteverde - Tamarindo

Breakfast at the Hotel. Private transfer to Tamarindo. Playa Tamarindo, located on the Pacific coast, has much to offer besides its crystal clear ocean, exquisite nature and stunning sunsets. The beach is a three and a half kilometer stretch of white sand and warm blue water. The sun shines just about 365 days per year, and the temperature is pleasantly warm year round.



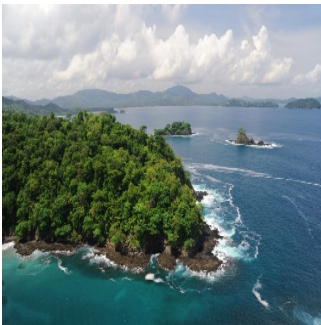
DAY 9: Tamarindo


Breakfast at the Hotel. Day at leisure.



DAY 10: Tamarindo

Breakfast at the Hotel. Day at leisure.



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DAY 11: Tamarindo - San Jose

Breakfast at the Hotel. Private transfer to San José



DAY 12: Departure transfer

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Deluxe
Inclusions	Private airport transfers Accommodation with breakfast Private tours as stated in the itinerary Transport English speaking local guides Exclusions Visa fees (if applicable) Airport tax (if applicable) Personal expenses Optional activities not mentioned in itinerary Gratuities for staff/guides
Difficulty Rating	1 - Easy
Single Surcharge	Available Upon Request
Notes	Contact us for more details
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

- 1) Only using local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprints. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting.
- 2) Where possible, using locally owned and operated boutique hotels to maximise the return to the local community.
- 3) Chimu's "Pass it on" programme has provided funding to hundreds of local community projects in Latin America. Our aim is to empower local communities, helping them to develop their own infrastructure for the future. Since 2006, we have been working with Kiva (a well-known Non-Governmental Organisation), providing hundreds of loans to local businesses all over South America.
- 4) In our pre tour information we provide a range of tips and advice on how to minimise your impact on both local environments and communities.
- 5) Chimu Adventures' offices also take a number of sustainability measures including carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure's internal processes are also structured to create a paperless office and to reduce waste. There are also internal programmes to help staff minimise their carbon footprint such as our staff bike purchase assistance plan which encourages office staff to commute to work via bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.

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